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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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15 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

THROUGH : Director of Administration, DPS/DCI

SUBJECT : Briefing of Major General Arno H. Luehman and
Modifications to Publicity Plan for WS-117L

REFERENCE : Memorandum to SA/PD/DCI, Subject "Request to
Brief Director Information Services, USAF,"
dated 8 August 1958 (COR-0094)

1. On 14 August 1958 Colonel Leo P. Geary and the undersigned met with Major General Jacob Smart, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, to seek his approval in the briefing of Major General Arno H. Luehman on Project CORONA. General Smart agreed to the briefing of General Luehman, however, he insisted that the latter be given a complete technical briefing in addition to the normal coverage so that he is in a position to rewrite his publicity plan in keeping with the CORONA cover plan. General Smart also insisted that any changes proposed in the WS-117L publicity plan come from within ARDC and be officially recorded in the record. He did not want any changes made that could not be attributed to an organization within USAF for to do so would only draw attention and suspicion by those already knowledgeable of the intended publicity.

2. Immediately following this meeting with General Smart the undersigned and Col. Geary met with General Luehman and the latter was brought up to date on Project CORONA as it affects the WS-117L program. General Luehman was very pleased to learn that the early phase of WS-117L would have an operational capability, and he offered his complete services and indicated that he would handle all matters pertaining to publicity himself and would not delegate any responsibilities to subordinate officers.

3. General Luehman indicated that the WS-117L publicity plan has not gone out as an official document, and that it is at present in the office of for approval. There have been

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This document contains information
relating to Project CORONA

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several changes made in the original paper which I forwarded to you under the referenced memorandum and a copy of the revised plan is being made available to us. General Luehman requested that we review his plan and note where we feel it is in conflict with the best interests of CORONA. He then will revise the plan to fit our requirements and will see to it that the changes are officially recorded as being for technical reasons originating from within ARDC. He noted that he was somewhat in the dark as to just how we planned on accomplishing a major reconnaissance effort since he has been led to understand present equipment has not been sufficiently developed for such use. It was suggested that he be given a technical briefing by senior officials of BMD so as to clarify this area of concern. General Luehman said that he would in all probability be in the Los Angeles area the 18th and 19th of August and if we could make arrangements to have General Ritland or Colonel Sheppard brief him at that time, he would be glad to make himself available.

4. I have since learned that General Luehman's appearance in L.A. is dependent upon a successful firing of a moon satellite. If the satellite successfully orbits on Sunday, General Luehman will immediately leave for California for high level meetings at BMD. If the satellite fails to orbit, General Luehman will return to Washington and his technical briefing will have to be conducted at a later time.

5. During the meeting with General Luehman, he noted that the Department of Defense has taken certain steps concerning Camp Cooke, California, to place it under maximum security enforcement. For example, Roy Neal of NBC-TV requested that he visit Cooke Air Force Base and photograph unclassified areas so as to give a progress report on construction to the general public. This request was denied by the Department of Defense advising Mr. Neal that it would conflict with the security requirements presently applicable to the base facilities. In a sense such notification to Mr. Neal indicated that there are preparations being made for an activity of high security classification. On the other hand, it has established Cooke as a secure facility which will permit us to deny access as we may see fit in the future. The forthcoming visit and dry run of CORONA operations at Cooke AFB will give us a better idea and understanding of the problems we are yet to be faced with. It may be that many features of General Luehman's publicity plan can remain provided we can successfully secure portions of the launch area from general visitor curiosity. The dry run test will demonstrate our ability in these areas.

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6. During the forthcoming week a copy of the revised publicity plan for WS-117L will be obtained, reviewed and areas of conflict noted. In addition, the CORONA dry run will be conducted at Camp Cooke with Headquarters representatives [redacted] Security; [redacted] Operations; and the undersigned representing Cover, participating with members of BMD and Lockheed Missile Systems Division. It is hoped that General Luehman will be available for a technical briefing during this same period so that upon the writer's return to Washington, a thorough study can be made with General Luehman on the revision of WS-117L/CORONA publicity.

7. It is the intention of the undersigned to keep you advised through written reports as to the progress being made in this area. I do believe that with the assistance of General Luehman much can be accomplished.

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[redacted]
Cover Officer
DPS/DCI

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